

cloning human embryos has begun and thousands are being created, grown, bought and sold, who is going to prevent them from being implanted in a woman and developed into a cloned child?

Even more perversely, when that inevitably occurs, what is the federal government going to do: Force that woman to abort the clone?

Greenwood sanctions, licenses and protects the launching of the most ghoulish and dangerous enterprise in modern scientific history: the creation of nascent cloned human life for the sole purpose of its exploitation and destruction.

What does one say to stem cell opponents? They warned about the slippery slope. They said: Once you start using discarded embryos, the next step is creating embryos for their parts. Frist and I and others have argued: No, we can draw the line.

Why should anyone believe us? Even before the president has decided on federal support for stem cell research, we find stem cell supporters and their biotech industry allies trying to pass a bill that would cross that line—not in some slippery-slope future, but right now.

Apologists for Greenwood will say: Science will march on anyway. Human cloning will be performed. Might as well give in and just regulate it, because a full ban will fail in any event.

Wrong. Very wrong. Why? Simple: You're a brilliant young scientist graduating from medical school. You have a glowing future in biotechnology, where peer recognition, publications, honors, financial rewards, maybe even a Nobel Prize await you. Where are you going to spend your life? Working on an outlawed procedure? If cloning is outlawed, will you devote yourself to research that cannot see the light of day, that will leave you ostracized and working in shadow, that will render you liable to arrest, prosecution and disgrace?

True, some will make that choice. Every generation has its Kevorkian. But they will be very small in number. And like Kevorkian, they will not be very bright.

The movies have it wrong. The mad scientist is no genius. Dr. Frankenstein's invariably produce lousy science. What is Kevorkian's great contribution to science? A suicide machine that your average Hitler Youth could have turned out as a summer camp project.

Of course you cannot stop cloning completely. But make it illegal and you will have robbed it of its most important resource: great young minds. If we act now by passing Weldon, we can retard this monstrosity by decades. Enough time to regain our moral equilibrium—and the recognition that the human embryo, cloned or not, is not to be created for the sole purpose of being poked and prodded, strip-minded for parts and then destroyed.

If Weldon is stopped, the game is up. If Congress cannot pass the Weldon ban on cloning, then stem cell research itself must not be supported either—because then all the vaunted promises about not permitting the creation of human embryos solely for their exploitation and destruction will have been shown in advance to be a fraud.

Mr. BAKER. Mr. Speaker, I rise to express my support for H.R. 2505, "The Human Cloning Prohibition Act of 2001." Let me begin my saying that I am unequivocally opposed to the cloning of human beings either for reproduction or for research. The moral and ethical issues posed by human cloning are profound and cannot be ignored in the quest for scientific discovery. I intend to support this legislation and will vote against the Greenwood amendment.

Let me be clear. Passage of H.R. 2505 will not stop medical research on the promising use of stem cells. This is an exciting area of research and I am confident this technology will produce results the significance of which we cannot fathom. Stem cell research will continue, but it does not have to continue at the expense of our human ethics or our religious morals.

There is not ever a time, in my opinion, where it is proper for medical science to wholly create or clone a human being. The ethical and moral implications of such an act are staggering, and I believe my colleagues understand that. So if we can agree on the human cloning issue, we must now address the fears some of my colleagues have expressed on the future of stem cell research.

The scientific objective in today's debate over stem cell research is having the ability to produce massive quantities of quality transplantable, tissue-matched pluripotent cell that provide extended therapeutic benefits without triggering immune rejection in the recipient. It has come to my attention that efforts have been underway for companies to conduct stem cell research using placentas from live births. I have become aware of at least one company that has pioneered the recovery of non-adult human pluripotent and multipotent stem cell from human afterbirth, traditionally regarded as medical waste.

Importantly, the pluripotent stem cells discovered in postnatal placentas were not heretofore known to be present in human afterbirth, and can be collected in abundant quantities via a proprietary recovery method. These non-controversial cells are known as "placental" and "umbilical" stem cells, because they come from postnatal placentas, umbilical cords, and cord blood, from full-term births, and are classified separately and distinctly from those stem cells recovered from adults and embryos.

The strength of this option is that it meets both the policy and scientific objectives while transcending ethical or moral controversy. We can solve the dilemma by building bipartisan coalition and simply turning the argument from "What we oppose" to "What we all support."

What I'm suggesting is a non-controversial, abundant source of high-quality stem cells that will significantly accelerate the pace at which stem cell therapies can be integrated into clinical use. They would offer the hope of renewable sources of replacement cells and tissues to treat a myriad of diseases, conditions and disabilities, including ALS (Lou Gehrig's Disease), Parkinson's and Alzheimer's, spinal cord injury, stroke, burns, heart disease, diabetes, osteoarthritis, rheumatoid arthritis, liver diseases and cancers.

I would say to all of my colleagues, let's move forward to stop human cloning before it starts. Let's move forward with stem cell research using a source of stem cells that is both in abundant supply and in conformity with our respective ethical and moral beliefs.

Mr. RUSH. Mr. Speaker, in an old blues song, B.B. King provides some sound advice: "don't make your move too soon." Clearly, Congress should heed Mr. King's advice on the issue of human cloning and act with prudence.

Based on my own personal, moral and religious views, I firmly believe that human cloning should be banned. I sincerely believe that the majority of my colleagues agree with

me. However, in our zeal to pass a ban on human cloning we may be needlessly impeding the legitimate use of stem cell research.

Even more frightening, instead of holding extensive hearings with scientists, ethicists and patient groups on how to develop a narrowly tailored ban on human cloning, we are rushing to a vote on a bill which was heard in one committee, the Judiciary Committee.

What ever happened to prudence? What ever happened to reasoning things out? What ever happened to looking before you leap? What is clear from the debate on this floor today is there are serious questions and confusion as to whether the Human Cloning Prohibition Act will merely ban human cloning or halt life saving stem cell research. The fact that there is confusion necessitates further debate and discussion, not a vote.

We must act with caution to ensure the future scientific successes which will make this world healthier and more productive while tightly regulating those practices which pose a clear threat to the health and safety of our citizens.

Clearly, we are making a move too soon, without facts, without an understanding of what the Human Cloning Prohibition Act does, and without an understanding of the science involved. I would urge my colleagues to not make a move too soon. Let's debate this issue further and vote on a bill when the implications of the legislation is clear.

Mr. BARR of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, the practice of either embryo splitting or nuclear replacement technology, deliberately for the purposes of human reproductive cloning, raises serious ethical issues we, as policy makers, must address.

Having participated, as a member of the Judiciary Committee, in hearings on the ethics and practice of human cloning, I am pleased to support Congressman WELDON and STUPAK's bill, H.R. 2505—the Human Cloning Prohibition Act of 2001. This bill provides for an absolute prohibition on human cloning. The bill bans all forms of adult human and embryonic cloning, while not restricting areas of scientific research in the use of nuclear transfer or other cloning techniques to produce molecules, DNA, cells other than human embryos, tissues, organs, plants, or animals other than humans. In fact, the bill specifically protects and encourages the cloning of human tissues, so long as such procedures do not involve the creation of a cloned human embryo.

The ability to produce an exact genetic replica of a human being, alive or deceased, carries with it an incredible responsibility. Beyond the fact the scientific community has yet to confirm the safety and efficacy of the procedure, human cloning is human experimentation taken to the furthest extreme. In fact, the National Bioethics Commission has quite clearly stated the creation of a human being by somatic cell nuclear transfer is both scientifically and ethically objectionable.

This is why I have serious reservations with Representative GREENWOOD's bill, H.R. 2172. This bill would prohibit human somatic cell nuclear transfer technology with the intent to initiate a pregnancy. Of critical importance, however, is the fact that would allow somatic cell nuclear transfer technology to clone molecules, DNA, cells, tissues; in the practice of in vitro fertilization, the administration of fertility-enhancing drugs, or the use of other medical procedures to assist a woman in becoming or remaining pregnant; or any other